

--30. Medium according to claim 2, wherein the saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain is interrupted by at least one hetero atom.--

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--31. Medium according to claim 1, wherein the medium further comprises formamide.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 19-31 are pending herein. By this Amendment claims 1, 2, 9 and 20 are amended, claims 3 and 13-18 are cancelled, and new claims 29-31 are added. Support for amended claims 1 and 9 and new claim 31 can be found in the specification at least at page 5, line 13, and in the original claims. Amended claim 2 clarifies the language of the claim. Amended claim 20 incorporates elements from canceled claim 13. New claims 29-30 are drawn to subject matter deleted from claims 2 and 3. Thus, Applicant submits that this Amendment does not introduce new matter.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indications that claims 5, 9-12 and 20-28 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Rejection under §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended claim 2 no longer recites the phrase containing the term "optionally."

Claims 3, 16 and 17 are canceled

II. Rejection under §102

A. Kaneko et al.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,272,072 to Kaneko et al. ("Kaneko"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is drawn to a culture medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeast, comprising a chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme of the hexosaminidase family wherein the medium also comprises at least one compound that selectively inhibits the hexosaminidase activity of *C. tropicalis*, wherein said compound is not formamide. Claims 2, 4 and 6-8 further depend from claim 1. Kaneko does not disclose such a medium.

Kaneko describes a method of preparing plants transformed with genetic material. Kaneko discloses an apparent method for analyzing the efficiency of plant cell transformation, i.e., an assay for GUS activity, that utilizes some type of composition that includes X-glu (chromogen) dissolved in dimethyl formamide. The Office Action states that dimethyl formamide selectively inhibits the hexosaminidase activity of *C. tropicalis*, thus the Kaneko composition falls within the scope of claim 1. However, claim 1 has been amended to specifically exclude formamide. Therefore Kaneko does not teach a culture medium containing each and every element, and does not anticipate claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action cites Wong-Madden for teaching chromogenically labeled substrates that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the hexosaminidase family, and chromogenically labeled substrates that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the glucosidase family.

Claims 13-18 are drawn to a medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeasts, wherein said medium comprises two substrates, a first chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the hexosaminidase family, and a second chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the glucosidase family. Applicants do not agree that Wong-Madden teaches the medium of claims 13-18. However, the Amendment cancels claims 13-18, thus rendering their rejection moot.

Claim 19 is drawn to a microbiological analysis process for selectively identifying and/or differentiating the *C. albicans* and/or *C. tropicalis* yeasts, characterized in that the sample to be analyzed is placed directly in contact with the medium of claim 1. Wong-Madden does not teach or suggest such an analysis method.

For at least the reason that Wong-Madden does not disclose a culture medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeast, comprising a chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme of the hexosaminidase family wherein the medium also comprises at least one compound that selectively inhibits the hexosaminidase activity of *C. tropicalis*, wherein said

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 3 and 13-18 are canceled.

Claims 29-31 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) Culture medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeast, comprising a chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate ~~which~~ that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme of the hexosaminidase family wherein the medium also comprises at least one compound that selectively inhibits the hexosaminidase activity of *C. tropicalis*, wherein said compound is not formamide.

2. (Amended) Medium according to Claim 1, characterized in that the selective inhibitor compound is an amide of formula (I):



in which, firstly, either R, R' and R'', independently of each other, consist of:

- a hydrogen atom,
- a saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic or cyclic hydrocarbon-based chain-
~~optionally comprising at least one hetero atom,~~

or each of the radicals R and/or R' and/or R'' together form a cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain-~~optionally comprising at least one hetero atom,~~

and, secondly, n is an integer greater than or equal to 1.

9. (Amended) Medium according to Claim 8~~1~~, characterized in that the ~~mixture of selective inhibitor compounds consists of~~ is acetamide, and said medium further comprises formamide.

20. (Twice Amended) Microbiological analysis process for detecting and selectively identifying certain species of *Candida* yeasts which is characterized in that the

sample is placed in direct contact with a medium ~~according to Claim 13~~ comprising two substrates, a first chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the hexosaminidase family, and a second chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate that can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the glucosidase family,

_____ time is allowed for colorations to appear in the medium, and

_____ identification is made, on the basis of the difference in coloration, of the *C. albicans* species from, on the one hand, the *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyr*, *C. lusitaniae*, and/or *C. tropicalis* species, and on the other hand, from the other Candida species, and of the *C. guilliermondii*, *C. kefyr*, *C. lusitaniae*, and/or *C. tropicalis* species from the other Candida species.